



SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE  
JOINT COUNCIL OF TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS OF LBI  
MONDAY MARCH 6, 2023

► **Q&A with Pete Papa from The Van Dyk Agency about insurance for taxpayer associations (“TAs”)**

Pete Papa was invited to this meeting to speak about the proper limits of coverage for directors & officers insurance and general liability insurance and to answer related questions. Board members who handle the insurance for their TAs were also invited to attend and many did so.

The session was most informative and either the JCTA representative or the board member who handles insurance (or both) will undoubtedly share what they gleaned from this exchange of information with their respective boards.

► **Discussion about having a unified membership campaign**

The LBT10 Taxpayer Association (“LBT10”) is the newest TA on the island and it was this organization that pitched the ideas of having a unified membership campaign among all JCTA member organizations. Specifically, the idea was that every TA on the island would participate in a program called the Every Door Direct Program (“EDDP”).

Through the EDDP, one flyer would be produced, bundled by postal zone (there are 12 zones on the island that overlap towns) and mailed simultaneously to everyone with a mailbox.

The flyer would announce that the membership drive for all individual TAs is in progress, list the TAs’ names and websites and direct recipients of the flyer to the website of their own local organization so they can renew membership or become members in that TA. The target date for release of this unified campaign would be around Memorial Day.

The big advantage is cost. Provided all TAs participate, printing and mailing would be 35 cents per flyer and with only a 1% response rate, it was stated that the TA would break even and most likely retain that membership for three years.

A lengthy conversation ensued in which concerns were voiced and discussed. We appreciated LBT10 bringing this idea forward, but we ultimately decided not to embrace the program as JCTA. If any TA is interested in participating, however, the JCTA representative should reach out directly to the president of LBT10 and so advise.

- **Results of the annual JCTA audit.** The audit committee completed a thorough examination of JCTA financial documents and procedures and reported that all is in order.
- **Windmill survey: next steps** The survey window has closed and the in-depth analysis of data is set to begin soon. The final report is expected to be ready in April.

► **Reports from the priority committees**

☆ **Beach Erosion/Replenishment** Nothing new to report.

☆ **Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety** This committee has geared up the 2023 season. More details to follow as we get closer to Memorial Day.

☆ **First Responder Support** The committee chair discussed the Length of Service Awards Program, commonly known as LOSAP, in which the Barnegat Light First Aid Squad and other island emergency medical squads participate. This state-wide program, which began in 2020, provides stipends -- through each municipality -- to volunteers working in emergency medical squads. The amount of the stipend is based on training hours and how much time they spend responding to calls.

This program can incentivize young people to get involved because subsidies could be \$2,000, depending on how many hours of training and response they have accumulated. In addition, an opportunity to get a pension is part of the program.

The island municipalities have not raised the amount of the stipend since the program was initiated. In order to give a cost-of-living adjustment (“COLA”), each municipality must pass a proclamation or ordinance that supports raising the stipend’s rate to accommodate COLA, which would be about \$400 per volunteer. The committee chair urged all TA representatives to work with their town’s mayor and other government officials to support this COLA. The chair will send more information to all JCTA members soon.

Interestingly, it was suggested that if JCTA wanted to disseminate information island-wide that would raise awareness about the first responder organizations, using the EDDP pitched by LBT10 about membership might be a low-cost way to do that.

☆ **Flooding** We expect to have an in-depth conversation about the variety of challenges this committee faces in the next meeting.

☆ **Offshore Wind Farms** *The Offshore Wind Farm Round Up* has resumed publication after a pre-announced break in February. Issue #10 of the Round Up has been sent to the JCTA for distribution as each TA sees fit. This issue focuses exclusively on the recent whale strandings along NY & NJ shores.